

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated February 8, 2007. Claims 1-13 and 15-40 are pending.

Claim 1 stands rejected under Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Kim 1 (US 6,774,967) in view of Kim 2 (US 6,356,335). This Section 103(a) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires that “*the aperture section and the protrusion section are bent in such a manner that sides of the aperture section and sides of the protrusion section each extend in directions which respectively form about 45° with a long side and a short side of the display region, and wherein bent parts of the aperture section and bent parts of the protrusion section are discontinuous, and wherein the bent parts of the protrusion section are located in regions corresponding to solid portions of the electrodes.*” For example and without limitation, Fig. 2 of the instant application illustrates that the aperture section (slits) 12a and the protrusion section 23 are bent in such a manner that sides of the aperture section 12a and sides of the protrusion section 23 each extend in directions which respectively form about 45° with a long side and a short side of the display region, and that bent parts of the aperture section 12a and bent parts of the protrusion section 23 are discontinuous.

Fig. 14 of Kim 1 illustrates slits 51 and protrusions 53. However, the protrusions 53 are continuous (not “discontinuous” as required by claim 1). The Examiner cites to Fig. 8E of Kim 2 (which discloses discontinuous protrusions 57) and contends that it would have been obvious to have made the protrusions 53 in Fig. 14 of Kim 1 discontinuous. This contention is incorrect. The only reason why the protrusions 57 in Fig. 8E of Kim 2 are discontinuous is due to the presence of a slit 43 therebetween which prevents them from being connected. The protrusions

MIYACHI

Appl. No. 10/849,378

May 3, 2007

57 in Fig. 8E of Kim 2 work together with the slits 43 and rubbing films in order to form particular types of domains which are entirely different than the domains of Kim 1. Because Fig. 14 of Kim 1 does not have a slit or aperture at the apex of the protrusion 53, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have applied the discontinuous feature of Kim 2 thereto. There is simply no reason why one of ordinary skill in the art would have made the protrusion 53 in Fig. 14 of Kim 1 discontinuous. Moreover, given that the aperture 51 is continuous at its apex (due to the gap between pixels) adjacent the apex of the protrusion 53, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have made the apex of the protrusion 53 discontinuous because this would destroy the domain alignment in the apex area – one of ordinary skill would not modify Fig. 14 of Kim 1 as alleged in the Office Action because this would result in bad performance and a destroyed domain area. One would not have modified Kim 1 in a manner which would destroy the functionality and/or operation of the device as alleged in the Office Action.

The Section 103(a) combination applied to claim 24 is incorrect in a similar manner.

Furthermore, the protrusions 57 in Fig. 8E of Kim 2 are not formed to be discontinuous for some purpose. The protrusions are formed to be discontinuous only because a slit 43 prevents them from being connected. This is clear from other drawings (e.g., Figs. 7A to 7G and Figs. 8A to 8D, 8G, 8J, and 8M) of Kim 2. In Kim 2 the protrusions 57 are formed to be discontinuous only when the slit 43 prevents them from being connected. Therefore, there would have been no reason or incentive for a person skilled in the art to make the protrusion 53 of Kim 1 discontinuous in view of the protrusions 57 of Kim 2 which were discontinuous due to the prevention of the slit 43. Further, in consideration of the disclosure of Kim 2, a person skilled in the art could not have conceived that some effect could be obtained by making the protrusion 53 of Kim 1 discontinuous.

MIYACHI
Appl' No. 10/849,378
May 3, 2007

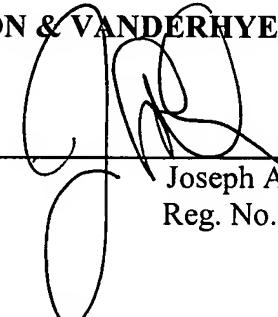
It is clear that a person skilled in the art could not have conceived the structure of the invention of claim 1 based on the disclosures of Kim 1 and Kim 2.

It is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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